

Calgary metro

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for Christmas



metroNEWS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015

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The Winnipeg Jets' Tobias Enstrom gets checked by the Calgary Flames' Markus Granlund during the first period.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



FLAMES FLY PAST JETS

Calgary picks up 4-1 win at Scotiabank Saddledome

Gap between city's image, reality

RANKING

Study: Calgary competing with world cities



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Calgary Economic Development says it has a new selling point when it aims to attract businesses to Calgary.

It used to be about the booming economy. Now it's all about the people.

"We've got great talent here," said Mary Moran, president and CEO of CED. "They're highly educated, young, a global perspective — they're ethnically diverse, sophisticated in working in international markets. It's a great time — even in this downturn — to come to Calgary."

This new selling point comes as a result of a study that looked at Calgary's competitiveness on

the world stage.

The study looked at a number of metrics in five broader categories, including economic strength, human capital and livability.

Calgary was compared to 10 other cities: Houston, Pittsburgh, Brisbane, Rio de Janeiro, Vancouver, Singapore, Chicago, Atlanta, Aberdeen and Rotterdam.

On the whole, Calgary stood out in many areas, including coming first in the category of educated workforce — 34.8 per cent of the workforce has at least

a bachelor's degree. The city was also second highest in GDP per capita and GDP growth.

Moran said if the numbers show a diverse and innovative workforce, then there is a gap between reality and perception in the rest of Canada.

She said it will be especially important to set children and young people up for success in schools and universities with an increased focus on technology and innovation.

"There's an opportunity for

us to rise from this downturn with a different narrative about innovation," she said.

Where the report found room for improvement was in cost of doing business. Calgary ranked only ninth out of 11 in lowest income tax. Corporate tax was better, at fifth lowest overall.

"Cost of doing business isn't terrible. It's not great but we know there's opportunities for improvement there. That's a message we need to convey to all orders of government," said Moran.

+ THE NUMBERS

• **\$826** Research and development spending per capita ranks Calgary third overall

• **\$56,969** Median worker income puts Calgary in the middle of its peers

• **75.2%** Working-age population working or looking for a job

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IN BRIEF

Alleged shooter has troubling police record, say documents

Parole-board documents say one of three people charged with killing two convenience-store clerks in Edmonton was a drug dealer with gang ties who was prone to violence.

The board noted that Laylin Delorme made attempts to improve himself behind bars, but his continued allegiance to gang life left the panel doubting his commitment to change.

Delorme, 24, was sentenced in January 2011 to two years in prison for several offences that included selling crack cocaine and a car jacking in which he hit the driver in the head with a gun.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta aims to keep deficit at \$6.1B despite low oil prices: Minister
Alberta Finance Minister Joe Ceci says the government's goal is to keep this year's deficit at \$6.1 billion despite oil prices that continue to slide.

Ceci says he doesn't plan to make a mid-course correction before the end of the financial year on March 31.

The budget is based on an average West Texas Intermediate price of \$50 US for a barrel of oil. In recent weeks, the price has slipped well under \$40 a barrel.

Ceci has said that a number of programs that were to start up in 2016-17 may have to be put on hold or get reduced funding.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neighbours spread some holiday cheer

COVENTRY HILLS

Community raises funds to give 7 families a Christmas



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Seven struggling families in Coventry Hills will be having a merry Christmas this year after their community rallied together to give them some much-needed holiday cheer.

Amanda Herbert, 27, said she and her seven-year-old daughter moved to Calgary this past summer, and as Christmas neared she was having a hard time accessing Christmas resources. So she took to the Coventry Hills community Facebook group to ask her neighbours.

"I went to work moments after I made the post, and when I was done I opened my phone and I had 18 comments on it and six inbox messages of people wanting to help," she said. "I burst into tears it was so nice."

Todd Wallace, who also lives in Coventry Hills, saw Herbert's post and immediately took the reins, and started planning what he dubbed Christmas in Coventry. The community initiative was aimed to help Herbert and other families in the community who were struggling during the holidays.



From left: Todd Wallace, Rob Symington, Courtney Wallace, Cindy Reid and David Hartwick, bottom. Missing from photo: Tanya Mills, Tom Maslin and Kalen Leathard. CONTRIBUTED

"I was so impressed with our community," said Wallace. "They responded to a rallying cry and little things done by a lot of people have made a huge difference."

Herbert and her daughter received their holiday hamper just the other day, and she said they are now set for Christmas.

"I got an insane number of gift cards, my daughter got a pair of purple Merrell boots she just loves," she said.

But what Herbert said was

"I've shed a lot of tears over this. I'm hugely thankful."

Amanda Herbert

best about the entire situation is the lasting relationships she forged with people in her community.

"I've made a lot of friends through this," she said. "There

are people at my daughter's school now who say hi to me, neighbours have offered to help me around my house, it's been amazing."

Wallace said because of Herbert's post, even more people could be helped.

As a community, they collected lots of toys, goods and food, raised more than \$3,000 in three weeks on their GoFundMe page, and the local bar, The Brewhouse also raised an additional \$1,400 for the cause.

FENTANYL

Kits save over 50 lives



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Ever since Alberta Health Services began to roll out naloxone kits to fight against the province's fentanyl crisis, the kits have been credited with saving more than 50 lives.

From the time they were delivered in early summer to Dec. 4, 51 naloxone kits have reversed fentanyl overdoses, saving the lives of people who used them, according to Alberta Health Services.

The government said 707 people in the province have acquired naloxone kits, and more than 3,000 are available for people to access.

Naloxone is a drug used to prevent fentanyl overdoses.

Though 51 may seem low, the government said that number could be under-reported.

"It's likely that more have been used without people reporting it," said Timothy Wilson, spokesperson for Health Minister Sarah Hoffman.

The nature of the reports also make it difficult for the government to fully determine how many lives have been saved, he added.

In Calgary, kits handed out by AHS's Safeworks program have saved five lives by reversing overdose effects, according to AHS spokesperson Don Stewart.

He said 371 kits were given to Calgarians.

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Policies could have saved clinic: Critics

OKOTOKS

Advocates hoping for a sustainable funding model



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The closure of an Okotoks nurse practitioners (NPs) clinic has advocates again sounding alarms for a new funding model.

After five years of serving the area, the Sheep River Nurse Practitioners Clinic will close its doors permanently Jan. 14. The last clinic day for patients is Jan. 7.

Stephanie Crichton, Calgary Rural Primary Care Network (PCN) executive director, said the clinic is closing due to funding cuts.

She said the PCN had hoped Alberta Health would've developed a sustainable funding



Alberta Health Minister Sarah Hoffman hopes to revisit the funding of nurse practitioners in the new year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

model to keep the clinic open.

Alberta Health said it plans to provide an update in spring 2016 on expanding the role of nurse practitioners.

Timothy Wilson, spokesman for Health Minister Sarah Hoffman, said the closure doesn't halt any progress the ministry has made on the file.

"This case won't affect the

work happening on this front," Wilson said. "But, it does highlight the need to find innovative and effective ways to expand the role of nurse practitioners in primary care."

Eric Lavoie, president of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta, said it's upsetting to see the clinic fold.

"It saddens me to see Alber-

tans have decreased access to their primary care provider because of a lack of government policy that would quickly solve this issue," he said.

NPs are registered nurses who have additional education and can interpret diagnostic tests, communicate diagnoses, perform specific procedures and prescribe pharmaceuticals without direct supervision of a doctor.

Currently, NP clinics are mainly funded as pilot projects through PCNs.

Though the government axed \$41 million for PCNs in its 2015 budget, the nurse practitioner facility was solely funded by PCN surpluses, Crichton said.

"(The facility) was intended to close March of this year, regardless of budget cuts," she said.

The NDP said it restored some funds the former Progressive Conservatives cut in March 2015.

Wilson said the government asked PCNs to apply some of their surpluses and find savings without affecting front-line care.

HOLIDAY OUTREACH

Muslim council calls for end to violence



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

of Islam."

Mahmood said his religion decries violence or killing in its name. He also condemned recent world violence in the name of Islam and said it's important to draw clear distinctions about how this violence is not taught in the Quran.

Mahmood said this event, which is celebrated nationally, draws many from outside the Calgary area to celebrate — and will be hosted this year on Christmas Eve, which also provides a strong opportunity to people of different faiths to come together.

Anyone is welcome to attend at the Falconridge Community Centre at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24.

Mahmood said he recently attended a Hanukkah event, which reminded him how this time of year brings people together.

"We had leaders of different faiths together, and they said, 'We refuse to be enemies.'"

While this week many Canadian Christians will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, Canadian Muslims will be honouring the birth of their prophet Muhammad in what they call Eid Milad un Nabi — and this year it's taking on a special importance.

Atthar Mahmood, vice-president of the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada, said they're specifically reaching out to youth this season.

"Throughout the world right now, radicalization is a problem," said Mahmood. "And we need to stop that."

"We want to make sure the right word gets to them. We have concerns about misrepresentation, so we want to educate about the right expectations



We have concerns about misrepresentation, so we want to educate about the right expectations of Islam.

Atthar Mahmood

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Police close down drug den

CRIME

Multiple people have been arrested and charged



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

One of the five worst houses seen by local law enforcement has been shut down after being over-run by the Calgary drug trade.

The closure follows a series of complaints from neighbours regarding the drug trade, leading ALERT's Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) team to launch an investigation into the residence.

Inspector Mike Letourneau with the ALERT SCAN unit, said this house, which has been on their radar since 2013, is one of the "top five" worst houses they have shut down.

"What you have here is drug use and drug trafficking," he said. "Multiple people coming to the house daily, and the people in the community were absolutely



This Penbrooke residence will be boarded up, fenced in and have the locks changed.

LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

terrified of what was happening at this property."

The problem property has been a hot spot for CPS, responding to nearly 100 calls at the home over two years. The home is located in the neighbourhood of Penbrooke at 202 Penworth Dr. S.E. and was closed Tuesday by SCAN team members.

Letourneau said the SCAN team witnessed drug activity tak-

ing place at the home throughout their investigation and were able to obtain a Community Safety Order, which includes closure of the property.

Staff Sgt. Geoff Gawlinski said CPS received numerous calls of concern and tips in regards to the home, and at different points in time police attended the residence, often seizing drugs.

"Several investigations have

resulted in the arrests and charges against numerous individuals," he said. "Some of the drugs that were seized during those investigations include marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine."

On July 19, CPS responded to a shooting inside the home that left the walls and ceiling riddled with bullets. On Nov. 3, CPS executed a search warrant at the home

that resulted in the seizure of both drugs and weapons.

Neighbour Brenda Ouellet said she's happy the revolving door of drug deals will finally shut and she can live with a boarded up house across the street instead of the previous activity.

"To know we're safe, I don't care what they do over there," she said. "The car would pull up, they'd go in and make a deal — they didn't even hide it."

The closure will take place for a period of 90 days, and in the interim the tenant is barred from entering or occupying the property, with locks being changed, windows and doors boarded up, and the property fenced.

Letourneau said the homeowner, who was the mother of one of the tenants, will not be allowed to rent out her home to any of the tenants who have been removed for a year.

He said SCAN uses civil legislation to target problem properties around the province that are used for illegal purposes such as prostitution, gang activity, drug use and drug trafficking.

The SCAN team consists of Alberta Sheriffs who partnered with Calgary Police Service on this investigation.

CRIME

Assault witnesses sought

The Calgary Police Service is seeking witnesses to a serious assault in the downtown.

At approximately 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 21, emergency crews responded to the 200 block of 11th Avenue S.E. after receiving reports of a man who was unconscious and in medical distress.

Upon arrival, crews found a 22-year-old man suffering from critical injuries to his head.

No one witnessed what had happened to the victim, but officers were told by a passerby that they were flagged down by a man who told them to call 911, and then ran from the area.

Officers found a man matching the description nearby.

He was arrested and officers charged him with assaulting the victim.

Anyone with information is asked to call 403-266-1234, or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.

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Monique and Christian Etienne thank their dogs for the \$14-million win. WCLC/CONTRIBUTED

LOTTERY

Airdrie couple wins \$14M jackpot prize

An Airdrie couple has hit the jackpot.

On Dec. 12, Christian and Monique Etienne became \$14,519,825 richer, winning the lotto 6/49 draw by matching all six numbers.

And the couple is thanking their dogs for the win, according to a news release.

"I went to the gas station to rent a carpet cleaner to clean up a mess they made with a package of scone mix," Christian said. "I picked up the lottery ticket while I was there."

A few days after the draw on Saturday, he returned to the retailer to check his ticket, using a self-checker machine.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing!" he said. He said he then called Monique.

"Christian called me and told

“
Right now we're just enjoying the 'Cloud 9' feeling.
Christian Etienne

me that we won \$14 million," Monique said. "I thought he was pulling my leg."

The couple is still basking in the win, though Monique said she'd like to take her mom back to Norway for a visit.

"Right now we're just enjoying the 'Cloud 9' feeling," Christian said.

The couple purchased the winning ticket at the Petro-Canada at 100-261200 Crossiron Boulevard in Balzac. METRO

IN BRIEF

More images released in Calgary sex assault

The Calgary Police Service has released more images of a person of interest tied to a violent sexual assault in the city's downtown.

At approximately 3:45 a.m. Sunday, police received a call from security guards at a parkade in the 200 block of 6th Avenue S.W. The guards had come across a severely beaten woman who had been sexually assaulted in one of the parkade's stairwells.

METRO

Derailment caused by track problems: Report

A report blames the derailment of CN freight cars in Alberta on track problems caused by too much rail traffic, including increased shipments of dangerous goods such as crude oil.

The Transportation Safety Board says 17 cars carrying diesel fuel residue derailed on June 11, 2014, near the hamlet of Faust on the shores of Lesser Slave Lake.

The report warns if the impact of increased traffic on tracks isn't dealt with, the risk of derailments in the area will likely increase.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CANNABIS

Convicted Canadians hoping for pardon

Marcus Richardson is, in the eyes of the law, a criminal.

Never mind that a judge ruled the six kilograms of cannabis police found in his car was for severely ill patients at a medical marijuana dispensary.

Or that the same judge imposed only a minimum sentence because anything more would fail to maintain "a just, peaceful and safe society."

Richardson's a criminal — and so are scores of other Canadians

who face barriers to travel and work because they were caught with a drug that the government now intends to legalize.

"My charge wasn't like, 'He was practising civil disobedience at a place that was helping sick and dying people improve the quality of their last days on earth,'" Richardson said.

"If the charge read like that, I'd have no problem with it. It reads like, 'I'm a marijuana trafficker.'" Canadians with criminal re-



Marcus Richardson
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

cords for marijuana crimes are eagerly waiting to see if Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will offer pardons when pot is legalized. Tens of thousands are charged with possession every year, and if convicted face consequences that can be devastating.

Today, the 42-year-old father of three holds a federal licence to grow and possess marijuana and runs a business selling equipment for medical cannabis users.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Drone enthusiast McKinley Raham lost his drone in a Toronto park, but was reunited after he made lost-pet-style posters. Transport Canada wants to make sure new pilots know the rules around operating drones. TODD KOROL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Feds worry about UAVs

TRANSPORTATION

Drones a risk to manned aircraft, says director

A new toy under the tree this year is making Transport Canada nervous.

On Christmas morning, it's expected thousands of drones will be unwrapped and take to the skies in test flights across the country, all piloted by newbies.

With the "exponential" growth of the drone industry, the federal regulator wants to make sure the new pilots — and they are indeed pilots — know the rules and risks around operating their new machines.

"Our real concern given the growth in this industry is around the risk to aircraft in the air and to people on the ground," said Aaron McCrorie, Transport Canada's director gen-

eral of civil aviation.

McCrorie said few recreational drone operators have any training. "Ignorance is perhaps our biggest challenge. People don't know what it means to operate safely," he said.

The caution comes at the end of a year when commercial pilots have reported a growing number of worrisome encounters with drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). At times, they are just a nuisance.

In November, a "concerned citizen" in Cambridge reported a drone. "The drone was flying just below the street lights and over people's heads and very close to residences," according to a preliminary Transport Canada report.

The proposed rules would set out required training and age restrictions, depending on the type of drone and where it would be flown. For example, the rules don't allow drone flights within nine kilometres of an airport.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Close calls with drones

1 May

An Air Canada jet at Toronto's Pearson International Airport deviated from its flight path to avoid a UAV flying directly in the busy departure route.

2 July

The pilots of a Jazz Airlines Dash 8 turboprop reported a near miss with a drone during their arrival at Edmonton

International Airport. The crew initially thought it was another aircraft but as it passed below and to the left, the captain identified it as a UAV travelling in the opposite direction.

3 August

Water bombers fighting a forest fire in B.C. were grounded for several hours after a drone was spotted in the area. Afterward, the B.C. government said it would consider changing its Wildfire Act to possibly punish irresponsible drone operators.

IN BRIEF

Students killed in shell attack on Syrian school

The Syrian government and an opposition monitoring group say that at least nine students have been killed and several wounded by a mortar shell that slammed into their school in the northeastern city of Deir el-Zour.

Syrian TV says the shell that hit the Harabesh elementary school for girls in a government-held part of the city on Tuesday was fired by "terrorists" — the term the government uses for all armed groups fighting against its forces.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. sends advisers to Afghan district under siege

Fierce battles were underway Tuesday between Afghan forces and the Taliban in southern Helmand province, where the insurgents have almost completely captured a strategic district as Britain deployed military advisers to the restive area.

A British Ministry of Defence statement late Monday said that "a small number of U.K. personnel" have been deployed to Helmand "in an advisory role."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human-rights abuses alleged in Burundi

A group says independent experts should investigate Burundi's forces for alleged human-rights violations, including extra-judicial executions, rape and looting in the unrest over President Pierre Nkurunziza's extended tenure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Migrants arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos on Nov. 2 after crossing the Aegean sea from Turkey's coast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Over 1M migrated to Europe in 2015

REFUGEE CRISIS

The majority travelled by sea, say experts

More than one million people — driven out of their countries by war, poverty and persecution — entered Europe in this record-breaking year, migration experts said Tuesday, a symbolic milestone capping a mass movement of people that has challenged the concept of European unity.

With just days left in 2015, the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration said

1,005,504 people had entered Europe as of Monday, more than four times as many as last year. Almost all came by sea, while 3,692 others drowned trying to make the crossing.

IOM director-general William Lacy Swing urged European governments to make migration safer.

"We know migration is inevitable. It's necessary and it's desirable," he said, adding: "Migration must be legal, safe and secure for all — both for the migrants themselves and the countries that will become their new home."

The IOM compiles the numbers from government records

in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Spain, Malta and Cyprus, spokesman Joel Millman said. He noted that the real number of people entering Europe may be even larger, because authorities are struggling to track all arrivals given the sheer volume.

Most people entered Europe via Greece, which took in 820,000 people this year, nearly all of them crossing from Turkey by boat across the Aegean Sea.

Another 150,000 came

50%

About half of the people entering Europe were Syrians, while 20 per cent were Afghans and seven per cent Iraqis, IOM said.

into Italy across the Mediterranean from north Africa, while smaller numbers crossed from Turkey by land into neighbouring Greece and Bulgaria.

Much smaller numbers arrived by boat to other Mediterranean countries.

Others — not accounted for in the IOM tally — crossed

into Europe across other borders, such as a route from Russia to Norway where a few thousand people have crossed by bicycle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESEARCH

The science of Rudolph

Everyone knows Rudolph has a red nose but what about his eyes?

Prompted by questions from his four-year-old daughter, anthropology professor Nathaniel Dominy of Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., recently wrote a scholarly paper on how the unique properties of reindeer eyes might explain the advantage of having a very shiny nose, particularly if it produces red light.

Reindeer eyes include reflective tissue that appears to glow when light hits it. In reindeer, the tissue changes from a golden colour during the summer to a deep blue in winter.

"What happens is that at night, the animals are trying to dilate their pupils to allow as much light into the eye as possible," Dominy explained.

While that change could boost an animal's ability to spot food in the snow when daylight in the Arctic is dim and purplish, it would be a distinct disadvantage on a foggy Christmas Eve because fog blocks blue light, Dominy said.

Enter the red nose.

Of all the colours, red light travels through fog fastest, making it ideal for guiding Santa's sleigh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A reindeer grazes at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



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WIND

Ski resorts looking for snow

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Unlike in the east, white stuff piling up in the west

A reversal of fortunes is afoot in Canada as the snow continues to pile up at western Canadian ski resorts while the grass is still on display on slopes in the east.

The conditions are in contrast to the past couple of years when warm winters wreaked havoc at many western ski resorts while frigid and snowy conditions in the east ensured hills packed with skiers and snowboarders.

Blue Mountain ski resort in Collingwood, Ont., north of Toronto, was all set for a Nov. 27 start date, but the snow just didn't show up — and hasn't in other parts of Ontario and Quebec either.

"We were all ready for the 27th; nature was not," said Tara Lovell, public relations manager for the resort.

The conditions are in stark contrast to free-falling snow in the West.

The heavy snowfall is being welcomed at Mount Washington on Vancouver Island, which was forced to close early the past two seasons due to lack of snow.

Mount Washington has already had over 300 centimetres of snow in December, allowing it to open its more technical terrain after a two-year hiatus and attract more skiers.

“

We were all ready for the 27th; nature was not.

Tara Lovell of Blue Mountain ski resort in Ontario

In the Rocky Mountains, the snow is also falling fast to the relief of resorts like Castle Mountain that were also forced to close early last year.

And so far, Alberta's economic downturn doesn't seem to have had an impact on the ski resorts, with Sunshine Village near Banff showing a 10 to 15 per cent increase in ticket sales, says Lindsay Gallagher, marketing co-ordinator for the resort. She said more Albertans are staying closer to home this season rather than travel for vacation, helping to boost season-pass sales.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



POLLUTION ITALIAN CITIES STRUGGLE TO DEAL WITH SEASONAL SCOURGE Smoke billows from chimneys in Milan Tuesday, adding to Italy's seasonal air pollution that has been worsened this year by long spells of no rain and little wind. Milan, joining efforts to battle pollution, is limiting the use of diesel cars and has asked residents to turn down thermostats by 1 degree while parents accompanying their children to and from Milan's schools can ride free on buses and trams. Meanwhile, Rome, as it has done several times this fall, is limiting the number of cars and motorcycles on its roads using a system based on license plates. And in northern Turin, public transport was free for two days this month to try to entice commuters away from cars. LUCA BRUNO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHISKEY WARS

Lawsuit over Fireball doused

Heated competition between producers of cinnamon whiskeys has cooled off, with Sazerac dropping its lawsuit against Jack Daniel's.

Sazerac — whose brands include the long-established Fireball Cinnamon Whisky — had accused its rival of trademark infringement by using the term "Fireball" in online advertising for cinnamon-flavoured Jack Daniel's Tennessee Fire.

The legal fight ended quietly Monday when Sazerac filed a motion in federal court in Kentucky to voluntarily drop its claims. Sazerac's decision came just before Jack Daniel's

— the flagship brand of Brown-Forman Corp. — was required to respond to the lawsuit.

Sazerac's motion did not say why it was dropping the case. Company spokeswoman Amy Preske said both parties reached an agreement, but she declined further comment.

Brown-Forman spokesman Phil Lynch said Tuesday the company was pleased to have settled the dispute

but had no further comment.

Brown-Forman has increased sales for its popular Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey brand by developing flavoured line extensions. In the past year, the Louisville-based spirits company expanded its Tennessee Fire version across the U.S.

Last month, Sazerac accused Jack Daniel's of infringing on its trademark by using the "Fireball" term in Google advertisements.

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Jack Daniel's now sells a line of flavoured products. ISTOCK.COM

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RIDESHARING

Business finds niche in drunken students

A former University of Connecticut student has found a niche market in the ride-sharing business, catering to drunk college students who want to get to and from parties and bars on weekends.

Lance Graziano, 22, said he got the idea for Sober Xpress LLC in 2012, when a woman flagged him down while he was driving near the Storrs campus and asked if he could give her and a friend a ride back to their dorm.

A few days later, Graziano bought a pre-paid cellphone and began advertising his services on several UConn Facebook pages. People wanting a ride would text him and give him a couple of bucks in return for a safe trip home.

Sober Xpress now has about 20 drivers, all UConn students, and a call centre (in Graziano's apartment). It is set to launch its own app in just over a month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cover your cough
Research shows this year's MERS virus outbreak in South Korea was due largely to "superspreaders" — social butterflies who infected up to 80 other people.

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



THE QUESTION I say it's OK to use emoticons in emails. My mom says no way. What do you say? — :)

Dear Ellen,
I say it's OK to use emoticons in emails. My mom says no way. What do you say?

:), Vancouver
Dear :),

If you're sending an invitation to a karaoke birthday party, the more emoticons/emoji the better. But if you're submitting a résumé or student application, best to avoid them. Then again, if the place you're applying to is clown school, then yes, go emoticon go.

As with many matters of etiquette, it depends.

Personally, I have no problem with emoticons in emails, which (unlike image-based emoji) are made with letters and symbols and can be fun and creative. ^_^

In fact, I wish I'd learned to use :D and ;) and :) and :P years ago when email was new and people were forging the proper approach to on-line etiquette.

For famously rude old-school journalists, the cursory way we dealt with each other in person and on paper only got worse with electronic communication. Though fussy about spelling and punctuation in published articles, our emails were and still are sharp, direct and barely literate, because, you know, our time is so damn valuable. (Also, no one is paying us by the word in an email.)

For my non-journo friends, however, this "quick, efficient" approach

An emoticon is most definitely recommended ... if there's any risk of misunderstanding.

was often perceived as "curt, rude and offensive." I've now learned that when a tight deadline or a long meeting does not permit sending a proper email, I can at least take the time to add a friendly smile or cheerful exclamation point to a one-word message in order to signal goodwill until I have more time to write or call.

An emoticon is most definitely recommended if you can't resist jocularity and there's any risk of misunderstanding. The difference between "Thanks a lot, hate you too" and "Thanks a lot, hate you too ;P" is vast.

As for more elaborate emoticons, I usually steer clear. For one thing, they

take too much shift-hunting and option-pecking on the keyboard. For another, they can be misconstrued. When you write, "Yes I did see the vicious reviews of my work on Twitter" and then add +_+ it's not really clear if the emoticon means "No comment" or "I am so freaked out, I got wasted and now I'm in a coma."

Finally, a word about image-based emoji. They're sometimes annoyingly inevitable, as when programs automatically translate your :) emoticon into a trademark happy face. And Google's decision to replace Gmail's retro emoji with grotesque yellow blobs is bewildering. But even those inelegant

shapes can amuse when you're stuck on the bus, idly composing inane messages to close friends or small children.

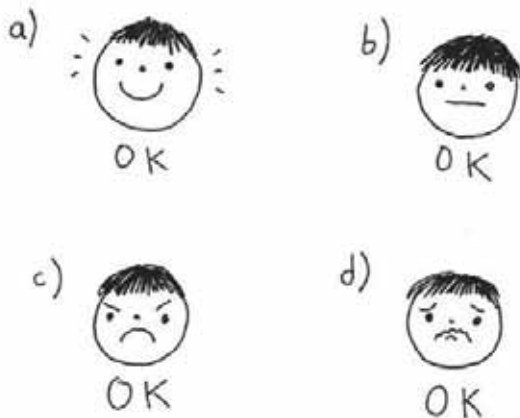
In short, dear :) in Vancouver, when it comes to using emoticons or emoji in emails or elsewhere, use common sense, err on the side of respectful restraint and never, ever use them with your mom.

Happy holidays!



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Here's how to stop Canada Post's slow-motion death march

R. Michael Warren



"We will stop Stephen Harper's plan to end door-to-door mail delivery in Canada and undertake a new review of Canada Post, to make sure it provides high-quality service at reasonable prices to Canadians, no matter where they live."

Of the hundreds of election promises made by Justin Trudeau, this one ranks among the most naive.

Ending home delivery for the one-third of Canadians who still receive it saves Canada Post more than \$200 million a year. It's a key part of its \$700-million Five Point Action Plan to make the corporation profitable.

The Liberals' "fully costed" campaign platform doesn't mention compensating Canada Post. It's as if the corporation can somehow lose \$200 million in savings and not slide back into operating losses — covered by taxpayer subsidies.

The "new review" of Canada Post implies there is a silver bullet that will allow it to deliver fewer letters to a growing number of addresses at a reasonable price.

The Harper government allowed Canada Post to struggle for years with a "Transformation Plan" that failed to deliver the promised financial and service results.

It hired Moya Greene, an executive with privatization experience, to head up Canada Post in 2005. She proposed a gradual privatization. The corporation was profitable, debt-free, worth about

\$1.5 billion and had a fully funded pension plan.

Harper failed to act when the conditions were most favourable. By 2013, Canada Post was bankrupt. Its pension plan was underfunded by \$6.5 billion. (All these financial obligations are guaranteed by Canadian taxpayers.)

The Harper government said if Canada Post would implement the tough five-point plan, it would receive four years of relief from making up its pension deficit. This delays but doesn't reduce the obligation.

The plan relies on rate increases and savings from removing home delivery. With pension obligations temporarily lifted, it produced a short-term profit last year. But by the middle of this year, it was again facing losses.

So Canada Post may soon be looking to the government for subsidies to continue letter mail service, something Trudeau neglected to mention. Meanwhile, its pension deficit swelled to \$6.8 billion.

Cheaper competitors can make money on all but remote rural routes. It's cheaper to pay them for this than to support Canada Post's monopoly.

Canada Post should sell its 90 per cent, \$1.5-\$2-billion stake in Purolator and be privatized, with the proceeds going to its debt and pension shortfall.

Trudeau should end Canada Post's death spiral with real changes that should have been implemented years ago.

R. Michael Warren is a former corporate director, Ontario deputy minister, TTC chief general manager and Canada Post CEO.

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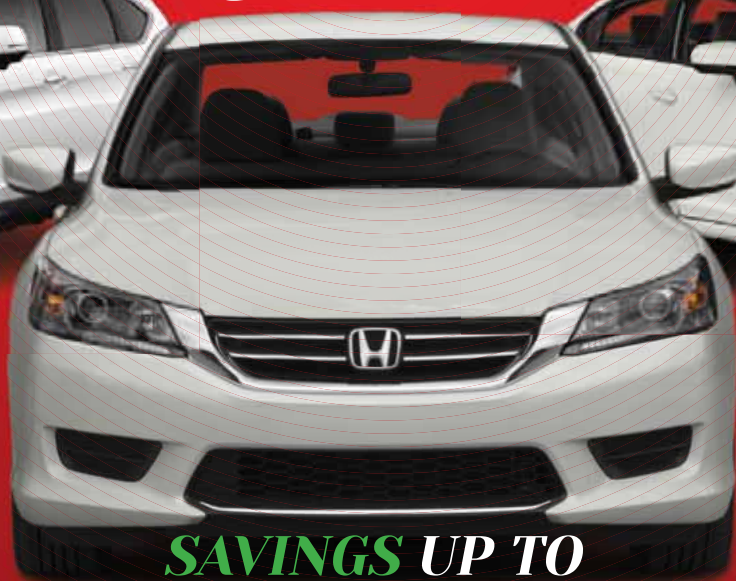


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Savoury pies a winter delight

NEW COOKBOOK

This book of 100 recipes will warm your belly all season

Members of Team Pie will love Dinner Pies — a 100-recipe book devoted to savoury pies to get them through the winter.

Focusing on hearty meat- and root-vegetable-based pies presented as a full meal, Dinner Pies' (\$36) first chapters are a primer of essential tools and ingredients for pie crusts, tips on rolling out the dough, and a dozen recipes for the crusts used throughout the book (sorry, no vegan options).

From there, about 100 recipes for savoury pot pies, hand pies, turnovers tarts, quiches, galettes, and cobblers fill the 269-page book. Classic pies — sausage and Guinness, Shepherd's pie and asparagus and goat cheese quiche are covered along with some more, ahem, American entries like Fritos chili pot pie, Tex Mex chicken tortilla pie and taco pot pie. You'll have to look at the author's previous books for the sweet pies.

Ken Haedrich is the man behind The Pie Academy website (thepieacademy.com), an online recipe hub and shop for all things pie-related. He's also written half a dozen other cookbooks centred

on American comfort food (he is from North Carolina, after all). The Curried Chicken is Haedrich's "favourite chicken pot pie recipe."

Curried Chicken Pot Pie

There's enough filling here to make three or four individually sized pies. Cover extra filling with aluminum foil and store in fridge for an easily reheated dinner. The curry adds aromatics but not much heat, so if you want it spicy, add 1 tsp cayenne.

Ingredients

- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 cup finely chopped white onion
- 1 1/2 cup peeled and finely diced carrot
- 1 cup finely diced red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp mild curry powder
- 1 3/4 cups no-salt added chicken broth
- 1 1/4 cups whole milk or half-and-half
- 1 cup canned chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1/3 cup canned pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 1/2 tsp table salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1 large egg beaten with 1 Tbsp whole milk or half-and-half (to brush on top of pie crust)

Directions

Bring a medium-sized pot of water to a rapid boil over medium-high heat. Add chicken breasts and cook until no longer pink in middle, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Let cool to room temperature and dice into small cubes. Set aside.

Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion, carrot and pepper. Cook until vegetables soften, 10 minutes.

Add flour and curry powder. Stir, 1 minute. Add chicken broth slowly, stirring frequently to dissolve curry powder and flour. When broth thickens, add milk. Continue to cook at a slow simmer another 3 minutes, stirring frequently to prevent burning.

Stir in chicken, chickpeas, peas and pumpkin puree. Add salt and pepper. Taste. Adjust seasoning as needed. Continue cooking until the liquid in the pot becomes a thick gravy.

If making more than one pot pie, divide the filling into oven-safe ramekins or small pans that can each hold about 1 to 1 1/4 cups of filling. Make sure to leave a bit of room for the pie crust on top. Set aside.

Divide the pie dough ball into the number of pie pans you are using. On a lightly floured surface, roll out each dough ball



This curried chicken pot pie is The Pie Academy's Ken Haedrich's favourite chicken pot pie recipe. CONTRIBUTED

with a lightly floured rolling pin until the dough is slightly bigger than the diameter of the pie pan. Drape the flattened dough over the top of the pan, pressing any extra dough on to the side of the pan to seal the pie. Using a fork or a knife, poke two or three

holes in the centre of the crust. Repeat for the other pies.

Lightly brush the dough with the egg mixture.

Place the pot pies on an unlined baking sheet in the oven. Bake at

375 F for 35 to 45 minutes, until crust is golden-brown and filling is bubbling hot. Place on a cooling rack for at least 15 minutes before serving.

Makes 4 servings.
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Slow take on smokin' chili

RECIPE

Chicken thighs steeped in heat make for easy winter treat

One of the greatest secret weapon ingredients is chipotles in adobo sauce. These are smoked jalapeno peppers that have been stewed in a sauce of tomatoes, garlic, vinegar, salt and various spices, such as cumin, oregano and paprika. Luckily, the whole thing — peppers and sauce — is sold in tiny cans at just about every grocer.

The easiest way to use these peppers and sauce is to puree the whole thing. You can just dump the contents of the can right into the food processor or blender. Then store the puree in a sealed container in the fridge. Whenever a soup, stew or a chili (or anything that calls for a little touch of smoky heat) needs a little something extra, in goes a tablespoon or two of the puree.

Speaking of secret weapons, one of the best appliances to earn that description is the slow cooker. For many of us, this



Slow cooker chicken chili. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

handy kitchen cooker takes up permanent residence on the counter during the colder months. The unparalleled pleasure of walking into your home at the end of a long day to be greeted by the scent of a cooked meal is hard to overstate.

In this chili, these two secrete weapons join together to turn juicy and moist boneless, skinless chicken thighs into a somewhat spicy and couldn't-be-easier chili. Chili can be made with ground chicken or turkey,

which we all love, but it's also nice to change it up with real cubes of chicken. This one is a definite weeknight keeper.

Slow Cooker Chicken Chili

Start to finish: 4 to 6 hours on high, 6 to 8 hours on low (15 minutes active)

Servings: 8

Ingredients:

- 1 cup chopped yellow onion

- 2 medium carrots, peeled and sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons pureed chipotles in adobo sauce
- 28-ounce can diced tomatoes, with juices
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- Two 15 1/2-ounce cans black beans, drained
- 3 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, trimmed of fat and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 scallions, trimmed and chopped
- Juice of 1 lime
- Kosher salt
- Shredded cheddar cheese or Mexican cheese blend
- Sour cream

Directions:

In a large slow cooker, combine the onion, carrots, garlic, chipotles in adobo, tomatoes, chili powder, cumin and beans. Stir to combine, then add the chicken and stir again. Cook in the slow cooker on high for 4 to 6 hours, or low for 6 to 8 hours. Stir in the scallions and lime juice just before serving. Taste, then season with salt. Serve with shredded cheese and sour cream on the side.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINE

Perfect pairings for Christmas bird

Peter Rockwell
For Metro Canada



wine lovers. Thick and mouth-filling, this is one yummy California Pinot that really talks turkey.

Attention last minute shoppers — if you haven't picked up a bottle for Friday night's food fest you're running out of time.

Doubts about what to buy has probably placed a liquid acquisition at the bottom of your to-do list, so with turkey in mind here are two perfect picks that will work magic with the big bird.

Moselland's 2014 Ars Vitis Riesling (\$11.95-\$15.99) is for the white wine lovers. Off-dry and grape-forward, this easy-going German is a juicy, side dish-friendly pour that comes wrapped in a pretty package that would be right at home under the tree.

Festive fact: The painting on the label is created by the grape grower using wine, not water. Meiomi 2013 Pinot Noir (\$25.99-\$29.99) is for the red

Meiomi Pinot Noir, left, and Moselland Reisling.

CONTRIBUTED



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The taste of the True North

NEW BOOK

Chef and writer traipse Canada for cookbook

Revvng up a snowmobile to cook beans with its muffler was just one adventure had by chef Derek Dammann and writer Chris Johns while researching their stunning new book, *True North*.

But after a few hours touring a rural Quebec bush on a glorious -25 C day, the beans in their Muffpot cooker were still cold.

"There was a huge acreage and we went in the field, just 80 kilometres an hour, zoom, trying to get the engine hot enough to cook the beans," recalls Dammann.

They ended up cooking them on a stove.

"I do not endorse the Muffpot. They've got to make some serious changes," Dammann adds, chuckling.

In the foreword of *True North: Canadian Cooking From Coast to Coast* (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.), British celebrity chef Jamie Oliver writes a laugh-out-loud introduction to his friend of more than a decade.

The two chefs first met when Dammann lunched at Oliver's Fifteen restaurant in London, the day before he was due to fly back to Canada at the end of a trip to study European food. Despite "alarm bells ringing" that Dammann was "showing all the signs of an obsessive stalker," Oliver writes he agreed to Dammann's proposal to don an apron for a stint in the kitchen that night.

At midnight, when an impressed Oliver said he would have given him a job as a senior chef if he wasn't leaving the country, Dammann shouted, "I'll take it," cancelled his flight and worked at Fifteen for three years.

"Damn, that boy can cook," Oliver writes. "I really think he's up there with some of the absolute best chefs in the world."

Dammann laughs about Oliver's foreword during an interview at the publisher's Toronto office.

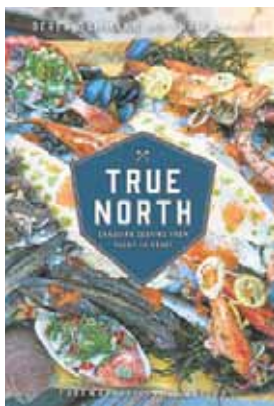
"I was ready to dance with it, just whatever it was, accept it, but then it's even funnier," says Dammann. "He calls me a virgin and a psycho. It's funny."

Oliver later invested in Dammann's 50-seat Montreal restaurant *Maison Publique*, which opened just over three years ago and is quintessentially Canadian.

"There's a few artistic liber-



Writer Chris Johns, left, and chef Derek Dammann were inspired by Canadian ingredients — from East-Coast cod, to spot prawns out West, to pulses and lentils on the Prairies. THE CANADIAN PRESS



ties, like there's olive oil and lemons and stuff like that. But 90 per cent of the menu is Quebec in the seasons," says Dammann, whose former Restaurant DNA featured nose-to-tail eating.

True North, which alludes to the national anthem in its title, celebrates Canadian food through the experiences of Dammann and Johns, who spent 3 1/2 years gathering material for the book.

"There's a stereotype to Canadian food for sure, just like BeaverTails and back bacon and the poutine and ... doughnuts. Everyone's seen (the film) *A Strange Brew* and you get the idea of what everyone's vision of what Canadian cuisine is," says Dammann, who grew up in Campbell River, B.C.

"But we just wanted to show through our eyes — with the ingredients and the travel and the stories — the way we look at it."

The chapters are arranged by ingredients from the locations that inspired them — Atlantic, Forest, Field, Farm, Orchard and Vineyard, and Pacific — and illustrated with gorgeous food and landscape photos.

On the West Coast, they gained an appreciation for the dedication of fishermen while hunting for spot prawns. The crustaceans were previously mostly exported but have become prized among seafood fanciers.

"One thing about all the people we met with — fishermen or winemakers or farmers or other chefs — is just they all share that in common, just this incredible amount of work, and hard work, that they do," says Johns.

The Toronto-based freelance food and travel writer found the Prairies fascinating.

"These days people are kind of focused on this idea of obscure foraged vegetables from the side of the ocean, or those are kind of the 'cool' things."

"But really what's going on in the Prairies with the lentils and the pulses and mustard and canola, we're feeding the whole world with this stuff," says Johns.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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How to keep resolutions

NEW YEAR

Have a plan to make those promises to yourself stick

Theresa Albert
For Metro Canada



You know how you make the same resolutions every year and drop them by March? Well, this year is going to be different. By planning your resolution success now and being ready for Jan. 2 you will have a much better chance of success.

Resolution 1: Eat more vegetables

Solution: Ask for a juicer for Christmas. These can be a pain in the pants but once you get rolling on it, you will quickly become accustomed to buying a huge batch of vegetables to press once a week. It takes a head of kale, a head of celery, a bunch of parsley and five apples to make a tasty juice that will keep in the fridge all week.

Resolution 2: Lose 10 pounds (also see resolution #1)

Solution: Eating more vegetables will naturally make you feel more energetic and able to displace some of the calories in your SAD (Standard American Diet — yes, Canadians generally have the same SAD diet).

Go through your cupboards now and look for ideas for recipes to use up items like canned beans, veggies and soups. An organized pantry is far more inspiring to cook from so you will be less likely to order in.

Resolution 3: Get more exercise

Solution: Buy yourself those new sneakers/squash shoes/jog bra now while it is on sale and you are out shopping. Don't wait for someone else to find the right size and colour. Heck,

Resolution 4: Quit smoking

Solution: Book yourself an appointment now to see your doctor. Pick up the patch, purchase the gum, post your intention



wrap it up all pretty like and surprise yourself with something you really want to find under the tree.

on your Facebook page and make yourself accountable.

Now that you are ready for your resolutions, remember to enjoy the holiday! It's more about sharing moments and love than it is about having the perfect tree.

Theresa is an on-camera food and health expert, nutritionist and writer who loves to spread the word on food

THE SINGLE GUY COOKBOOK

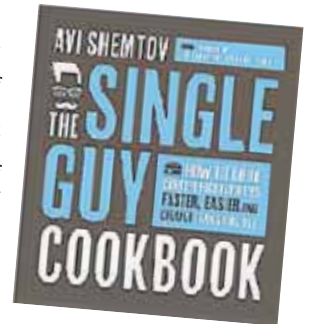
Recipes for one — 'man-centric' style

Are you a single guy? Are you hungry? Do you really wish you knew how to cook? If you've answered "yes" to any or all of these three questions, there's definitely a niche cookbook out there for you. This one comes by way of Avi Shemtov, chef and owner of The Chubby Chickpea, a locally sourced falafel-slinging food truck that treads Boston grounds seven days a week.

Shemtov released The Single Guy Cookbook earlier this year, a guide to "man-centric" recipes (think: Waffle-battered Chicken Tenders and One Guy Stir-fry) with commentary written with a bachelor audience in mind.

However, despite his book's title, the 31-year-old wants readers to know his mission to send singles into the kitchen isn't gender-specific. "Cooking for one person is a challenge, even for the greatest chefs," Shemtov says. "And not that I'm going to rid the world of all the ails of gender roles, but it's the single guy who is often told, 'You can't cook because you're a guy and that's not your thing.'"

He says he found himself offering guidance to his single



male pals and wrote the book in the tone of the tips and advice he's passed on over the years. He adds, "It's sort of a survival guide for the single person."

A great tip? "For sun-dried tomatoes or marinated mushrooms, use the olive bar [at the grocery store] instead of buying jars. The average guy will just leave those sitting in their fridge for months, and you could have paid a little bit by the pound."

While not so single himself — he's got a wife and two kids — Shemtov certainly knows how to cook,

RACHEL RACZKA/METRO NEW YORK

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Director X's surprise Hotline Bling success

VIDEOS

Man behind hit video talks success and Drake

Through the seemingly endless stream of parodies and fan adulation for Drake's viral Hotline Bling video, perhaps no one has been more surprised by its success than its Toronto director.

"It was incredible," said Director X (real name Julien Christian Lutz) of the reaction to video, which has surpassed 245 million views.

"I was really blown away. I didn't expect it to be so big. It's crazy."

X, as he's often referred to, has been directing videos for some of the world's biggest recording artists for 20 years now. They include Kendrick Lamar, Usher, Justin Bieber, Nicki Minaj, Timbaland, Jay-Z, Alicia Keys and John Mayer, to name but a few.

He's also getting into big-screen projects and is directing his second feature film, Center Stage 3: Dance Camp.

He shot Hotline Bling through his production company, Creative Soul, in Toronto in September. It was his third time working with Drake after Worst Behaviour and Started from the Bottom.

"He's a great collaborator," said X. "He definitely knows what he wants and even has an understanding of what's going to work. It's a good experience working with him."

"It's good to be working with someone that's more of a partner than just some guy who shows up and then stands in front of the camera and leaves," X continued.

"He's involved, top to bottom, beginning to end. He's not leaving anything for someone else to figure out for him."

Hotline Bling, which debuted in late October, has become a sensation, largely because of Drake's slow body-roll dancing

in it.

But it was X's artistic vision that emphasized the moves.

The video starts with a shot of curvaceous women working in a cubicle-divided call centre. It then cuts to Drake (whose real name is Aubrey Graham) doing a series of shimmy-shuffle grooves on a minimalistic, illuminated set featuring light boxes and stairs.

Overall, the goal was "just doing a big performance piece," said X, noting he was asked to do something along the lines of his Temperature video for Sean Paul.

"I have a graphic style, I like sets, I'm very into architecture and design," said X.

"You pull things from, you know, 'Look at that building, the way they built the wall.' You're pulling all these different influences and mixing them with your own ideas and coming out the other side with something."

The Brampton native got his start as an intern at MuchMusic in the mid-'90s.

"I was just beginning to look at music videos. I didn't really know there was a career," he said with a laugh.

"Then I found, 'Oh, this is really a thing,' and I was already pursuing it. But it was like, 'Oh, there's a life here.' There were no grand plans. It's just what I wanted to do."

He studied and learned a lot on his own, through books and hands-on experience in New York, where he worked under hip-hop music video pioneer Hype Williams.

"The main lesson I really learned from him is when he told me that (a music video) has to be about something. That was eye-opening," said X.

"And that's what the Drake piece is about: the sets and the colour changes. 'Gimme the Light' (by Sean Paul) is about the sets. You can make something about something, even though it's not in the narrative sense.... It doesn't have to be a story, it can be about shoes, it can be about a colour." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brampton, Ont., native Director X got his start as an intern at MuchMusic in the mid-'90s. COURTESY DIRECTOR X/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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SEASON RECAP

Fargo series took on a life of its own

Fargo's second season is over, but many of us remain mesmerized by it, as if we were flat on our backs staring up at a UFO.

In the midst of the TV industry's creative and cultural peak, the Calgary-produced show slipped onto the scene and quietly, steadily propelled itself up critics' best-of lists.

The first season of creator Noah Hawley's anthology for FX was tremendous in its own right — it effortlessly shrugged off any expectations viewers had in connection with Joel and Ethan Coen's iconic 1996 film — but Fargo's second season is even better.

Fargo succeeded by using snippets of multiple dramatic constructs to assemble a first-rate, postmodern pastiche that felt familiar and fresh all at once.

In Season 1, Hawley wove elements of the Fargo movie into his plot, paying homage to the Coen Bros.' genius at nearly every turn.

To help give the TV version of Fargo a life of its own, Hawley created unforgettable standalone roles in Season 2 with no connection to the tale that preceded it.

Each had a crucial place in the plot's house of cards; never did you get the sense (as you did in True Detective's second season) that scenes had to be divided equally among the major stars. Instead, you can't imagine Season 2 of Fargo without any of them.

The end result of Hawley's brilliant splicing process intentionally blurred the lines between the movie and the first two seasons — a third season is scheduled for the spring of 2017 — and between objective and subjective reality.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Kirsten Dunst in Fargo.
HANDOUT

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Show exposes incompetence

THE SHOW: Making a Murderer, Episode Four (Netflix)

Brendan Dassey, a 16-year-old boy with an IQ of 75, phones his mother from prison in Manitowoc County, Wisc. He's just confessed that he and his uncle, Steven Avery, raped and murdered photographer Teresa Halbach.

"I didn't do it, though," he tells his mother (Avery's sister). "But why did you say it if you didn't do it?" she cries, audibly panicked. "I guessed," Brendan says. "Like I guess at my homework."

You might want to watch this true-crime series behind closed doors, because I guarantee you will be yelling at your screen. It follows Avery's case over a ten-year period. The gross incompetence it exposes — of the police, lawyers, and judges — is breathtaking, and the degree to which they manipulate people and facts is deeply troubling.

Making a Murderer feeds the appetite for true crime stories evinced by the huge successes of the podcast Serial and HBO's miniseries The Jinx: The Lives and Deaths of Robert Durst.

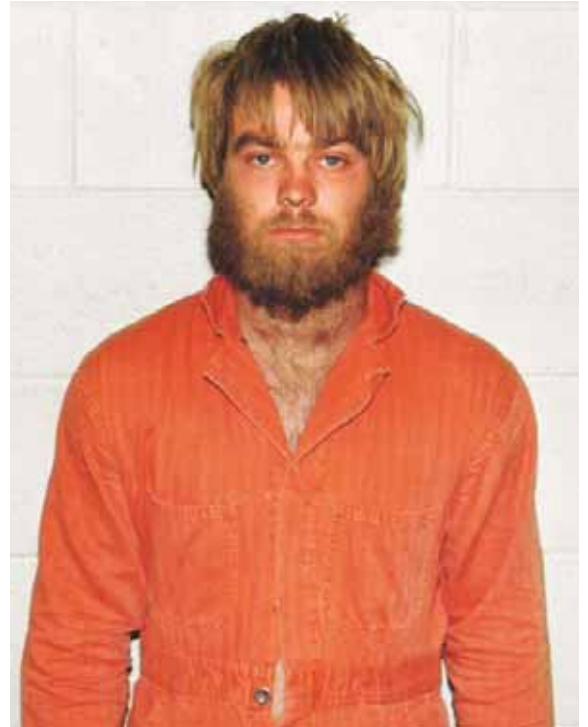
If the first season of the former was about race in America

“You might want to watch this true-crime series behind closed doors, because I guarantee you will be yelling at your screen.”

(the second season just started), and the latter about money, Making a Murderer is about class. Avery's family owns an auto salvage business (much of the voiceover is accompanied by shots of rusting cars). They're undereducated (his mother calls newsmagazine shows, "Them things that's on TV always"). His girlfriend is in and out of prison for drunk driving. Seeing what easy targets they are will make you queasy.

"Poor people lose," Avery sums up. "They lose all the time."

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



Making a Murderer is a show that is ultimately about class.
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It ain't heavy, it's the Tahoe



REVIEW

Quick steering response makes Chevy SUV feel much smaller

Jill McIntosh
For Metro Canada



Between gas prices, congestion and parking woes, full-size SUVs don't have the cachet they once did. But there's still a place for them, and so GM has completely redesigned its Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban.

The two are essentially the same, but the Suburban rides on a longer wheelbase, with more legroom and cargo space. The 2015 models got the update, while the 2016 versions are unchanged except for some trim items.

I drove the Tahoe. Like the Suburban, it uses a 5.3-litre V8 as before, but this is a new version that, at 355 horsepower, is more powerful than the 320-horse version it replaces. It comes in two- or four-wheel drive, and when properly equipped, it can tow up to 3,856 kg (8,500 lbs), an important factor in a vehicle that many people buy in place

of a truck.

For all its bulk, and it is big, the Tahoe doesn't feel heavy. Much of that has to do with its quick steering response, which makes it feel like you're piloting something much smaller. The cabin is extremely quiet, and the strong engine accelerates swiftly and smoothly when power is needed. Its fuel economy will seem high if you're accustomed to a smaller crossover, but its published figures are the best of its competitors.

The interior is handsome, and the first- and second-row seats are comfortable, but the third row is another story. Perched above the rear axle, these flat-cushioned chairs are close to the floor and leave you sitting with your chin on your knees. Unless you have small children, or friends desperate for a ride, you'll probably keep them folded down to give you more cargo space.

Available in three trim lines, the Tahoe also offers a number of option packages that add some nice features but also can get pricey. My mid-range LT trim was optioned to more than \$68,400, but still didn't have a navigation system. That said, for those in the market for a full-size SUV, Chevrolet's redesigned version is very well done and worthy of a look.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 CHEVROLET TAHOE

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, 7- or 8-passenger full-size SUV
Engine (hp/torque). 5.3-litre V8 (355/383)
Transmission. Six-speed automatic
Price. \$52,740 (base), \$68,435 (tested), plus destination



JILL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO; MAIN: COURTESY GM

COOL FEATURES

- Wireless phone charging
- Heated steering wheel
- Heated and cooled front seats
- Rain-sensing wipers
- Adaptive cruise control
- Front collision warning with automatic braking
- Tri-zone automatic climate control

POINTS

- The GMC Yukon and Yukon XL are the mechanical twins to the Tahoe and Suburban, but slightly more upscale and pricier.
- The 5.3-litre V8 uses active fuel management, which shuts off fuel to half the cylinders when full power isn't needed for better efficiency.
- If the lane departure system notices you drifting out of your lane, it vibrates the seat as a warning.

MARKET POSITION

Large SUVs are a niche market, but can be popular with those who need passenger and cargo space while towing boats or trailers. GM and Ford are the only mainstream companies to offer one model in two different lengths.

THE COMPETITION



Ford Expedition
Base price: \$52,399



Dodge Durango
Base price: \$41,895



Toyota Sequoia
Base price: \$54,535



Its fuel economy will seem high if you're accustomed to a smaller crossover, but its published figures are the best of its competitors.



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+ 'ONE-STOP APP'

Chevrolet reveals new vehicle control app

With CES 2016 on the horizon, an upgraded myChevrolet app has been unveiled, along with its ability to access several key functions at distance, including engine, headlight, and door control.

The myChevrolet and OnStar RemoteLink apps are to be combined for

2016, meaning that drivers need use just a single app to request roadside assistance, parking reminders, owner's manual content and more.

The overhaul also allows Chevrolet to build on a single platform instead of managing updates across two separate apps.

"By integrating OnStar RemoteLink features into the myChevrolet app, we're creating a one-stop

app for owners to manage their vehicle with one user profile and unified log-in," said Chevrolet's vice-president of marketing, Paul Edwards.

Tire pressure, oil life and fuel range data can also be viewed from the app, while a tweaked my.chevrolet.com website will let customers track vehicle service histories and schedule maintenance appointments. AFP



The myChevrolet app will combine with RemoteLink functions in 2016. CHEVROLET

Carmakers to connect at 2016 CES

DIGITAL REALM

Big automotive presence is expected at tech trade show

In recent years the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas has been reenergized as an event for providing consumers with a peek into the automotive world of the future and at this year's show, which runs Jan. 6 to 9, 2016, a new record is expected in terms of the number of automakers in attendance.

Aston Martin

It can still compete in terms of esthetics, but in every other department, James Bond's automotive brand of choice is slipping further and further behind the competition. However, all of that is expected to change in the year ahead, starting with CES where the company is tipped to present its first connected car concept.

Audi

No stranger to the event, or to wowing the crowds with autonomous technology, Audi is tipped to unveil a new flagship A8 luxury sedan complete with a production-ready version of its piloted driving and remote parking systems.

Rinspeed

The Swiss design studio is showing an autonomous car concept called the Etos. Based on the BMW i8 it even has its own drone that can take to the sky to check out the road ahead or be sent out

for pizza when stuck in traffic.

BMW

The company that created the i8 is expected to unveil a drop-top counterpart at this year's show. But as well as being more dramatic, the Spider is also expected to showcase BMW's connected car technologies.

Bosch

One of the most intriguing of the German automotive supplier's showcases will be a crowd-sourced take on finding a parking space. "With the help of sensors, cars identify and measure the gaps between parked cars as they drive past them. The information they record is transferred to a digital road map," explains Gerhard Steiger, president of the Bosch Chassis Systems Control division.

Continental

The tire maker and component supplier will be giving real-world demonstrations of its Dynamic eHorizon connected car platform that, in Continental's own words, lets you see around the corner. "Predictive driving is safe driving. This is what any driver learns in driving school," said Ralf Lenninger, head of Innovation, System Development and Strategy.

Volkswagen

Rumours are flying that a new car based on its iconic Microbus will be unveiled in Las Vegas; however, all VW will say is that it will be a "completely new concept car" and that it will mark "the beginning of a new era of affordable long-distance electromobility." AFP



Rumour has it a new car based on Volkswagen's iconic Microbus will be unveiled in Las Vegas. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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Look for 360-degree camera monitoring systems, such as that found in the 2016 Kia Sorento. KATHY RENWALD/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Forecasting the top car tech picks

EQUIPMENT AND FEATURES

Best options to choose in a 2016 car, according to Autotrader

Autotrader has been crunching the data, going through the options lists and examining historical consumer sentiment in order to put together its guide to the best options to select if buying a new car in the year ahead.

Buying a new car has never been easier. BMW's new web portal, for instance, can take care of the whole process in just 10 minutes, all from the comfort of your living room.

However, the lists and array of optional equipment and features, even on the most mass-market cars, have never been longer or more complex and it's often impossible to know what is worth the investment.

"All of the major automakers are racing to integrate the latest and greatest features into their vehicles," said Brian Moody, executive editor at Autotrader. "The last several years have seen great advances in automotive technology, from features that keep drivers safer to some that make the car infinitely more entertaining to drive. And in 2016, we'll see many of these features make their way into a wider variety of vehicles."

To clear up the confusion, Autotrader has curated a list of the features that it believes will be the best options to pick in a 2016 car.

A 360-degree camera

In the U.S., a reversing camera is already obligatory, but more and more companies, from Audi to Nissan, are now taking the technology to another level by offering virtual all-round or bird's-eye views of the car's surroundings for missing any obstacle when reversing.

Self-parking

All mainstream motor manufacturers now have a self-parking system as standard or optional equip-

ment that can cope with both perpendicular and parallel spaces. It is faster and more reliable than most humans; however, its real usefulness will depend on where you live and drive. If it's the city centre and you rely on finding and quickly manoeuvring into on-street spaces, it's a must-have. This may explain why it's already one of the most commonly specified features for European car buyers.

Automatic steering

Autotrader is using this as an umbrella term for a number of different lane-keeping, traffic jam assist and highway-piloting systems that are beginning to trickle down from concept to production. According to Bosch's figures, lane-keeping features alone are enough to prevent up to 28 per cent of accidents resulting in injury caused by poor lane discipline.

LED headlamps

They look cool but they also do a better job of illuminating the road than any other current-generation headlamp technology. On Audis, Mercedes and now even the latest Fords, the LEDs can automatically refocus so as not to dazzle oncoming drivers, shine around the car ahead and even bend to brighten a corner before steering into it.

Smartphone integration

Consumers want access to apps and other smartphone services while behind the wheel and they prefer the systems on their handsets to the ones that car companies are offering. Therefore, better smartphone integration, via Android Auto

or Apple CarPlay, is going to be a true must-have for anyone that wants hands-free calling and turn-by-turn navigation. AFP

Better smartphone integration is among the tech features car shoppers may want to keep an eye on in the new year. ISTOCK



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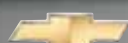
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AMVIC

Taking the Tucson FCEV out for a spin

AUTOPILOT

Zero-emissions vehicle now on the streets of Surrey, B.C.

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada



Last week I drove an example of the first fuel-cell vehicle to go on sale in Canada.

The first jolt was that the Hyundai Tucson FCEV looks alarmingly like any other 2013 to 2015 Tucson.

Your brain expects a car that runs on a chemical process (expressed in very long and complicated formulas) to turn hydrogen into electricity to not look like the compact SUV you rented two years ago at the airport.

Hyundai Canada's communications manager, Chad Heard, opens the FCEV's hatch to show me the cargo floor, which is about two inches higher than that of a regular Tucson, because underneath is the bigger of the two hydrogen storage tanks (the other, smaller tank is

under the passenger seat). The FCEV's tanks are rated at 10,000 psi, and hold enough hydrogen for about 420 kilometres.

"This is where the magic happens," Heard says next, after lifting the front hood. Hyundai's proprietary Fuel Cell, which turns hydrogen into electricity, is completely housed in the engine bay. It's a tight fit, but it's all in there. Also packed in is a 25kW battery for storing electricity, an electric motor capable of 134 hp and 221 lb-ft of torque, and a transaxle connecting the motor to the front wheels.

Then Heard throws me the key, and we climb in for a short drive and lunch ... much like an episode of Jerry Seinfeld's Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee, but without the comedy and the star power and the thousands of views. And the fact that we're driving THE FUTURE, and not an emissions-belching old-timey sports car.

I hit the start button. The instruments come to life and that's about it. No powertrain sounds, so just like a "regular" EV or hybrid. If it was cold outside it would take a bit for the Fuel Cell to get working, but you could take off even before it is, via battery power.



The Hyundai Tucson FCEV looks like a regular Tucson ... until you open it up. MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO

I shift into drive. Off we go ... It drives just like virtually any electric vehicle, with seamless, smooth and silent propulsion. The loudest sound is the heater fan, and tire noise.

You can't hear or sense what the Fuel Cell is doing — powering the motor, charging the battery, or both, or simply on stand-by to conserve hydrogen. It just does its own thing.



Under the hood, the proprietary Fuel Cell in the engine bay.



In the rear, the bigger of the two hydrogen storage tanks.

Good acceleration around town. It gets up to highway speeds no problem, but feels a bit slow over 100 km/h.

The FCEV is a good chunk heavier than a regular Tucson, and most of the extra weight is all up-front, so that affects the handling somewhat.

But once you adjust to its nature, you can easily forget you're driving a hydrogen-powered vehicle with zero emissions. If our hydrogen future is on hold for some reason, it is not because driving a fuel-cell car is a substandard experience. It's a great experience.

The Tucson is only available as a three-year lease, at \$529 a month, which also includes free hydrogen and all your maintenance. Eight of them have been leased so far, and only in the Surrey, B.C., area, home to Canada's only publicly accessed hydrogen refuelling station and a dealership trained and equipped for fuel-cell vehicles.

Lots more want one, but Hyundai has to make sure the fuel-cell experience will be a good one for prospective buyers, so for now, that effectively means only customers in that area of the country. Which is kind of a shame ...



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+ ON THE WAY OUT

French bonus targets old diesels

The government of France not only grants incentives to buyers of new electric cars, notes Green Car Reports, it also encourages the scrapping of older diesel cars. Currently, it offers the

equivalent of a \$15,840 CDN bonus to drivers who buy a new electric car, and also send a 15-year-old diesel car to the scrap yard. France's environment and energy minister says plans are afoot to extend the bonus to include 10-year-old diesels.

End of the line for Viper

The arguably eco-unfriendly Dodge Viper will go out of production in 2017, for the second time since it debuted in 1992. The 650-horsepower



V10-engine two-seat sports car's demise is outlined in a labour agreement between Fiat Chrysler America and the United Auto Workers union.



PAINTING

The painting process can represent up to 60 per cent of a plant's total energy consumption, says Honda.

EMISSIONS

Honda factory cuts energy usage

In addition to making cars more efficient and cleaner burning, automakers are also cleaning up their act in the manufacture of those cars. Case in point: Honda of America's "Green Path" initiative to cut the total life-cycle carbon emissions at its Marysville, Ohio, factory, where it builds Honda Accords. The plant has cut total energy usage by 25 per cent since 2008, employing a mix of energy management systems and precise measurements of actual usage. A new addition to the plant was a \$210-million-US state-of-the-art paint line that cuts the energy consumed in painting cars in that line by 18 per cent.

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news



SPORTS CAR

Detroit Electric's SP:01 claims world firsts

The first production model of wannabe electric sports car maker Detroit Electric rolled off the production line in Leamington Spa in United Kingdom in October. The hand-built SP:01 is billed as the lightest and fastest two-seat pure-electric sports car in the world, with a zero-to-60-mph (96 km/h) time of 3.7 seconds and a top speed of 155 mph (250 km/h). Seeing the first car come off the line means the firm can now focus on fulfilling "a growing bank of orders," said CEO Albert Lam. Uniquely, the SP:01's battery has been integrated into the chassis as a stressed member, adding rigidity to improve handling, and is claimed to be the world's most energy-dense automotive battery pack.

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Sporty GLK also a smooth traveller

USED VEHICLE

2010-16 models from Mercedes are a mostly worry-free bet

The Mercedes GLK launched for 2010 with a blocky and rugged look that flew in the face of more swoopy and wind-swept competitors, and boasted great visibility on account of its square proportions and thin window pillars, generous manoeuvrability, and a full complement of upscale feature content fitting of the badge.

Taking a place beneath the ML in the brand's utility vehicle lineup, GLK intended to compete with machines like the Acura RDX and BMW X3. Feature content included push-button start, navigation, heated leather, automatic climate control, xenon lights and plenty more.

At launch, all models ran a 3.5-litre V6 with 268 horsepower, a 7-speed automatic, and 4Matic All-Wheel Drive (AWD). From 2013, the V6 was up-rated to just over 300 horsepower, and a 2.1-litre twin-turbo diesel four-cylinder engine becomes available, in the GLK 250 Bluetec.

The test drive

Any jerky shifts, slamming sensations, or failure of the transmission to respond via downshift to throttle inputs could be the result of a fussy Transmission Control Unit

(TCU), which can be remedied by a reset or re-flash of its computer software. If any unwanted sensations from the transmission are noted on a test drive, be sure to have a Mercedes dealer investigate.

Run the COMMAND central control interface through its paces, exploring and confirming proper operation of all functionalities. Some owners have reported sporadic or regular crashing-out of this system, which can render many vehicle functions relating to communications, entertainment and navigation inoperable. Revised system programming, available through your dealer, will typically solve any detected issues. Try the control knob in all directions, call up all menus, pair a phone, and be sure the system responds favourably.

Confirm proper operation of the powered tailgate, if equipped. If the tailgate reverses direction on its own, in either direction, a faulty motor clutch is probably to blame. Dealer service advisers have access to a service bulletin with more information on diagnosing and fixing issues with the rear power tailgate.

Squeaky brakes may be the result of excessive wear, or the need for revised brake pads to mitigate vibrations that cause squeaks. Other uncommon but notable issues include backup camera failure, short taillight bulb life, and fluid leaks from a front axle seal.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

What owners like

Styling, classiness, comfort and the GLK's upscale cabin are highly rated by owners. Many report a perfect blend of agility, sportiness and comfort is maintained on all surfaces. A solid and robust feeling of quality is noted, and even the standard stereo system is said to be potent. Finally, numerous tall drivers go out of their way to mention the GLK's generous head-room.

What owners dislike

Some owners wish for larger side mirrors and more rear seat legroom, and question the engine's need to be fed premium-grade fuel.

The verdict

The most frequently reported issues with the GLK appear to be minor in nature, and should be easily detected and fixed. Prospective shoppers who find a good deal on a used copy, and get a thumbs-up from a Mercedes-Benz technician on a pre-purchase inspection, can buy with confidence.

PHOTO COURTESY MERCEDES

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Former Tampa Bay coach doesn't expect the Steven Stamkos hysteria to die down soon: 'It's big because Stammer's big'

5 CANADIANS TO WATCH IN FINLAND

The world junior hockey championship begins on Saturday with Canada facing the United States in the preliminary round. Here are five Canadian players to keep an eye on starting on Boxing Day:

JAKE VIRTANEN

Right-winger, New Westminster, B.C.

Virtanen rode his success with last year's world junior champions on to the Vancouver Canucks roster, officially making the NHL team on Nov. 1 as a 19-year-old rookie. Since that impressive start to the season he's struggled with one goal and four assists in 19 games. He went scoreless in two games while on a conditioning assignment with the American Hockey League's Utica Comets before joining Canada's junior team. He could be a leader in the Canadian locker-room but also has the opportunity to turn around his season in the NHL.

ANTHONY BEAUVILLIER

Left-winger, Sorel, Que.

One of the youngest players on Canada's roster this year, Beauvillier impressed at selection camp in early December, scoring four times in two games against Canadian university all-stars, including a hat trick. His strong play continued into pre-competition exhibition games. He could be a breakout star of the tournament if his hand stays hot.

BRAYDEN POINT

Centre, Calgary

Point is arguably the best player in the Western Hockey League and a veteran of Canada's 2014 gold-medal junior team. However, he injured his shoulder on Nov. 17, forcing him to miss several games for the Moose Jaw Warriors and wear a non-contact jersey for Canada's pre-competition games but also missed some practices to rest his injury. If he's on the ice he's one of Canada's most dynamic playmakers. If he's injured, Canada will need to scramble to find a distributor of Point's ability.

MASON McDONALD

Goaltender, Halifax

Hockey Canada's original plan was to carry two goaltenders, with Mackenzie Blackwood being the presumptive starter and McDonald keeping him sharp as a skilled backup. That all changed when Blackwood was suspended for eight games by the OHL on Dec. 8. Now Blackwood can't dress for Canada's first two games of the world juniors, putting McDonald between the pipes and last-minute addition Samuel Montembeault on the bench. McDonald, at least against the United States and Denmark, will have all eyes on him.

DYLAN STROME

Centre, Mississauga, Ont.

All the attention has been showered on outspoken winger Mitch Marner ahead of the world junior championship, but Strome will be the centre for Canada's top line at the tournament. The third-overall pick of the 2015 NHL draft, Strome is Canada's most talented player in Helsinki, Finland. How he and longtime friend Marner react to the pressure of the event could decide if Canada will repeat as world champions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

CFL

Stamps re-sign Burnett

The Calgary Stampeders have re-signed international defensive back Joe Burnett.

Burnett took over a starting job at cornerback in Week 6 and totalled 25 tackles, three tackles for loss, a fumble recovery, eight knockdowns and two interceptions on the year. He also returned 12 punts for 139 yards.

Burnett suffered a season-ending injury on Sept. 25 in Winnipeg.

"Joe played great football at cornerback for us and it was unfortunate that his season was cut short by injury," said Stampeders general manager John Hufnagel in a statement. "I look forward to seeing Joe back at full strength and speed in training camp so that he can try to pick up where he left off."

Burnett was a CFL all-star in 2012 when he led the league with six interceptions while with the Edmonton Eskimos. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Rangers down Ducks in OT

Mats Zuccarello scored a power-play goal at 2:37 of overtime and the slumping New York Rangers beat the Anaheim Ducks 3-2 Tuesday night for their fourth win in 15 games.

Derrick Brassard had two goals and an assist as the Rangers snapped a three-game losing streak. Henrik Lundqvist made 17 saves.

Corey Perry and Rickard Rakell scored for the Ducks, who lost their second in as

TUESDAY In New York

3 RANGERS
2 DUCKS

many nights and for the fourth time in five games. John Gibson stopped 19 shots.

The Rangers got the power play when defenceman Cam Fowler was called for holding

New York defenceman Ryan McDonagh as he broke into the offensive zone.

Dan Boyle made a cross-ice pass to Zuccarello in the right circle for a shot that beat Gibson for his 15th goal of the season.

The game was Carl Hagelin's first against the Rangers since being traded to Anaheim in the off-season. He played his first four seasons in New York.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mats Zuccarello ended the game with his 15th goal of the season.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Roasted Shrimp and Broccoli over Soba Noodles



PHOTO: MAVA VISNIE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



Skip takeout and whip up this easy noodle dish.

Ready in
Prep time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 x 8 oz package of soba noodles
- 1 lb large shrimp, peeled and cleaned
- 1 head of broccoli, trimmed into small florets
- 4 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp sesame oil
- 2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. Get a big pot of water on to boil.
2. In a small bowl, mix together your oils, vinegar, lemon juice and a bit of salt and pepper. In a large

bowl, toss together your broccoli and half of that marinade. Now spread it out evenly across two baking sheets and pop it in a hot oven for 10 minutes.

3. In that same bowl, toss your shrimp with the other half of the marinade. When the broccoli has been in the oven for 10 minutes, take out the sheets, turn the broccoli over and add the shrimp evenly across the two sheets. Put it all back in the oven for another 10 minutes.

4. Cook your soba noodles according to package instructions.

5. In the final 2 or 3 minutes, take the baking sheets out and give everything another stir. In the end the broccoli should be firm but tender and all the shrimp should be opaque and pink.

6. Drain the soba noodles and turn them out onto a big platter. Spoon the broccoli and shrimp over top. Pour any juices that have accumulated in the pan on top.

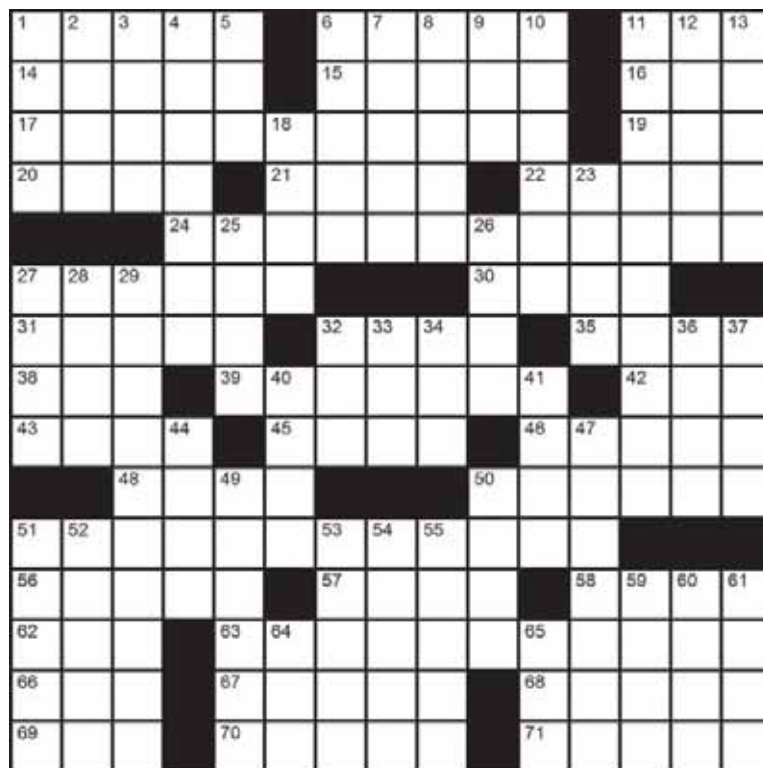
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "Sleigh Ride" bit: "...up, let's go..."
6. Nova Scotia island
11. Month parts [abbr.]
14. Blazing
15. Mountain chain
16. 'Serpent' suffix
17. Seasonal tune covered by Canadian singer Kim Stockwood: "It's a _ World"
19. Christmas beverage
20. 'Kitchen' suffix
21. Brain wave
22. Like poodle skirts now
24. Trendy Christmas fashions: 2 wds.
27. Progresses
30. Prod
31. Surrealist artist Max
32. Orange juice stuff
35. "... it about time?"
38. Stop- _
39. House levels, variantly
42. "Gosh!"
43. Singer on "Do They Know It's Christmas?": Boy George aka George O' _
45. To the _ (Fully)
46. 'My Christmas Favorites': Tennessee _ Ford album
48. Cartoon bear
50. Scant
51. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" has eleven: 2 wds.
56. "I'm dreaming of a white Christ-



mas / Just like the _ _ used to know..." - Irving Berlin

57. Driving 4x4s, commonly

58. Christmas angel spot

62. School org.

63. Resort hills are illuminated for

DOWN

1. Up for it
2. "... first you don't succeed..."
3. Soil
4. #49-Down is based on his book: 2 wds.
5. Slangy affirmation, variantly
6. "A Very _ Christ-

mas" (1988 TV movie starring a '70s family sitcom cast)

7. Wheezing noises

8. Bride's new relative

9. Pride

10. Prepare the gift once more

11. Festive tune by

Sarah McLachlan that starts "Lake is frozen over..."

12. Bouillon brand

13. Some lilies

18. Wire diameter measures

23. Needle case

25. Comprehends

26. Catch a glimpse

27. Remain unsettled

28. Jason's craft

29. Rocky Mountain features: 2 wds.

32. Taro root dish

33. Website

34. Permit

36. Film _ (Movie genre)

37. Yoredom's 'you'

40. Not that

41. Visible

44. Performs

47. "Alexander's _ Band" by #56-Across

49. Jim Carrey's 'Mean' 2000 Christmas role

50. Pine for

51. Make a brief visit: 2 wds.

52. Brief beginning

53. Washington's _ Sound

54. "... potential." (House buyer's observation)

55. "Christmas All Over Again" by Tom _ & The Heartbreakers

59. Hilarious human

60. Feminine suffix

61. #19-Across ingredients

64. UN workers agcy.

65. Kit _ (Chocolate treat)

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Go your own way and do your own thing. Don't expect support from others. You'll discover you're better off without them anyway. You know what needs to be done, now do it.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Your instincts will guide and protect you. Don't be fearful. Anyone who doubts that you can be original will have those doubts silenced. Now is the time to take chances.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will give freely of your time and energy today but take care that your generosity is not abused. Sometimes you can be too easy-going for your own good. Give only to those who deserve your help.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Surprises are likely, so brace yourself for unexpected changes. You may not have much control over what's taking place in your life, but that does not mean you won't enjoy it.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you're going to take a risk, if you're going to put everything you've gained on the line, now is the time. There is no guarantee you'll win but the odds are definitely in your favour.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will go against accepted wisdom today. Deep down you know your way is best, even if the whole world is against you. You will make some outrageous decisions, and each and every one of them will be right!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will surprise yourself and do something that scares you. You might even make a success of it. But even if you don't you'll still impress people in positions of power.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do what makes you happy, not what makes other people happy. If that makes you unpopular in certain circles, so be it. You might find yourself better off financially without them as well.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You feel inspired to do something out of the ordinary. Whatever it may be, and whatever the reaction, you're sure to make a success of it and you're sure to make money from it.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Let your hair down and let others see you are not at all the conservative Capricorn they think you are. Don't worry if you shock certain people. The way to get noticed nowadays is to act just a little bit outrageous.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't worry if you fall behind in your everyday routine. What matters is that you give some thought to the direction your life is heading. A change of course may be necessary.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You have to be a bit more adventurous now. If you want to get in other people's good books then do something different, something they would never expect of you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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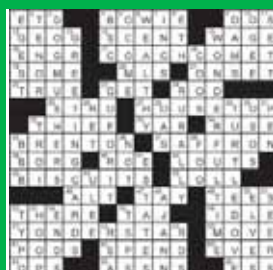
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